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PRESS RELEASE

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Announced a Regional Public Health Conference

May 10, 2005-Tashkent, Uzbekistan - U.S. Ambassador to Uzbekistan Jon R. Purnell and the Uzbekistan Minister of Health, Feruz G. Nazirov participated in the opening of the four-day conference "Building Public Health Capacity and Integration of Disease Control Programs in Central Asia"

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Central Asia Regional Office under financial support from USAID is conducting a four-day conference from May 10 through May 13, 2005. The goal of the conference is to increase the level of understanding of successful public health and disease control programs in Central Asia.

Over 400 participants from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, as well as Russia, and the USA, took part in this four-day event. Among invited participants there are medical epidemiologists, specialists in HIV/AIDS, TB, and maternal child health as well as laboratory specialists.

CDC/CAR's activities in Uzbekistan focus on reducing the burden of infectious diseases, primarily HIV and TB. CDC's strategy is twofold: to improve local capacity in surveillance and prevention by strengthening laboratory and epidemiological systems and to build on these capacities by building programs that positively impact the health of the people of Uzbekistan. Since 1995, CDC's work in Central Asia has been focused on capacity building among AIDS centers, TB facilities, laboratorians and epidemiologists. CDC believes that this conference -- marking the 10th anniversary of CDC in Central Asia -- offers the opportunity to share information obtained in the region on strengthening public health services and the development and implementation of successful prevention and control strategies.

CDC is recognized as a leading governmental agency for protecting the health and safety of people both within the U.S. and internationally. CDC's mission is to promote health and quality of life by preventing and controlling disease, injury, and disability. Provision of technical aid for the development and implementation of laboratory quality assurance programs and HIV Sentinel Surveillance is one of the core activities of CDC/CAR.

USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries to provide a better future for all.

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